

In The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-18. (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) Apparatus for storing and transporting piece good articles in U-shaped pockets according to claim 39 wherein downward tensioning force is sufficient to hold the pockets open during loading.

20. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the attachment is mounted to the pockets (4, 5) in the proximity of and below a lateral loading opening (14).

21. (currently amended) Apparatus for storing and transporting piece good articles in U-shaped pockets having a flexible bottom and flexible lateral limb sidewalls which articles tend to distort the sidewalls and a transverse wall connecting internal surfaces of said pockets, the sidewalls being suspended in a support frame in the proximity of an upper edge of the pockets and wherein an attachment is provided for stabilizing a lower end of the pockets by providing a defined downward tensioning force sufficient to hold the pockets open during loading, wherein the attachment is mounted to the pockets (4, 5) in the proximity of a lateral loading opening (14) and wherein the attachment is in the proximity of two lower ends of a U-shaped pocket (4, 5) said apparatus further comprising openings (9) in the lateral limb sidewalls (11, 12) below the bottom and a bar (6) extending transversely through the openings in the sidewalls, wherein the

weight of the bar provides a downwardly directed tensioning force upon the sidewalls (11, 12) of the pockets (4, 5).

22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claims 21 wherein the attachment includes means for providing a downward tensioning force upon the sidewalls.

24. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the means for providing a tensioning force comprises a weight hanging on the pocket (4, 5).

25. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the means for providing a tensioning force comprises elastic pulling downwardly on the pocket.

26. (canceled)

27. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 26 wherein ends of the bar (6) are accommodated in substantially vertically extending guides (7).

28. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 26 wherein the bar (6) is biased away from the bottom wall by elastic pulling downwardly on the bar.

29. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 27 wherein the guides (7) for the bar ends (6) have a securing means to prevent the bar ends from unintentionally sliding out of the guide.

30. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 19 wherein a transverse portion (21) extends between the sidewalls.

31. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~19~~ 30 wherein the transverse portion (21) is elastic.

32. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 21 wherein at least one holding element (22) is provided on a sidewall (11, 12) in an interior of the pocket.

33. (canceled)

34. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 32 ~~33~~ wherein an end of the transverse portion (21) is connected to the holding element (22).

35. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 34 wherein on both sidewalls in the interior of the pockets (4, 5) is a holding element (22) extending substantially in the transverse portion (21) ~~extending between said holding elements (22).~~

36. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 35 wherein the holding elements (22) and the transverse portion (21) substantially define an H-shape, wherein ends of limbs of the H-shape are respectively secured to a sidewall (11, 12) of the pocket (4, 5).

37. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 35 wherein the holding elements (22) and the transverse portion ~~(13)~~ (21) are made in one piece from elastic material.

38. (currently amended) Apparatus for storing and transporting piece good articles in U-shaped pockets having a flexible bottom and flexible lateral limb sidewalls which articles tend to distort the sidewalls and a bottom connecting the sidewalls ~~transverse wall connecting internal surfaces of said pockets~~, the sidewalls being suspended in a support frame in the proximity of an upper edge of the pockets and wherein an attachment is provided for stabilizing a lower end of the pockets and wherein elastic holding elements are mounted to a lower edge of the U-shaped pockets in such a way that upon downward movement of a lower end of the pockets ~~upper frame portions holding the pockets~~, the elastic holding elements provide a defined downward tensioning force that prevents the pockets from moving out of the frame.

39. (currently amended) Apparatus for storing and transporting piece good articles in U-shaped pockets having a flexible bottom and flexible lateral limb sidewalls which articles tend to distort the sidewalls and a bottom connecting the sidewalls ~~transverse wall connecting internal~~

~~surfaces of said pockets~~, the sidewalls being suspended in a support frame in the proximity of an upper edge of the pockets and wherein at least one attachment exterior to the pockets is provided below the pockets for stabilizing a lower end of the pockets by providing a downward tensioning force where the downward tensioning force is provided by elastic pulling downwardly on the pocket.

40. (canceled)

41. (canceled)

42. (new) Apparatus for storing and transporting piece good articles in U-shaped pockets having flexible limb sidewalls and a flexible bottom connecting the sidewalls, which articles tend to distort the sidewalls and the bottom, the sidewalls being suspended in a support frame in the proximity of an upper edge of the pockets, the upper elements of said support frame being removable, the pockets additionally being fixed in a region near or below the bottom wall.